

The Oologah Informer

May 28th, 2017

Let the Bible Speak

By Russ Earl
(Part 2 of 2)

Second, Christ speaks to us (through the Word of God) and through His Apostles to tell us – mankind - how we are to worship Him. Christ wants us to worship Him, BUT He wants us to do so in the way He commanded. Over the years man has changed, a service that was designed to be directed toward God and turned it to be directed towards self. This has been done by ignoring God's commands and examples of worship. This has been done by approaching worship with the attitude of "this is what I like, or what I enjoy" instead of worshipping and praising God "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). While worship should be something we enjoy, it shouldn't be enjoyed because we are entertained. It is enjoyed because we are worshiping and praising the God of our Salvation (Revelation 19:1). It should be enjoyed when we know that our worship is pleasing to God. If we are attempting to worship God some other way than how the Bible describes, then our worship is not pleasing to Him and we are again teaching people to follow a "different gospel". To worship God in spirit (John 4:24) is to worship God with the right attitude and having our minds focused on Him.

To worship Him in truth (John 4:24) is to worship Him as He commanded us to do so in the New Testament. Since we are no longer under the Old Law but are under the New Law (Colossians 2:14-17), the law of Christ, we cannot use those Old Testament examples of worship to support our worship today. Why would one use the Old Testament to justify what we do today? In the Old Testament, concubines and multiple wives were permitted by God, but not in the New Testament. So why do so many argue that the Old Testament allowed such things as mechanical instruments of music? If we keep one part of the old way of doing things we should keep them all and not pick what we like and argue for it when we don't do so for keeping the Sabbath, or feast days, the jubilee, and so on.

The reason such an argument is used is because the New Testament doesn't authorize mechanical instruments of music. As a matter of fact, it does not even mention such things. Notice what the Bible says in Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching, and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." The only instrument mentioned in this verse is the heart. We praise God from our hearts. If praising God with instruments is a command wouldn't Christ or one of the Apostles have mentioned it? After all, the Holy Spirit was to "guide them in all truth" (John 16:13), yet mechanical instruments are never mentioned. We find a similar verse in Ephesians 5:19, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," If we are to worship God

Address

13800 S. 4080 Rd on Hwy
169 South of Oologah
P.O. Box 527 Oologah, OK
74053 (918) 443-2025

www.oologahcofc.org
oologahcofc@oologahcofc.org

facebook.com/oologahchurchofchrist
facebook.com/biblewaymedia.org
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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

A Sermon with Power_(Acts 2:36-37)

PM Sermon

Lessons from Obadiah

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Characters of the O.T.

Wednesday Bible Class:

5th Wednesday singing night

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in a way that is pleasing to Him, we cannot put what we like or what sounds good to us first. If our worship isn't pleasing to God, then our worship is vain (useless, Matthew 5:19). Thus, again if we are not following the commands of Christ then we are guilty of following a "different gospel" created by mankind.

Third, let's consider the source of so much "doctrine" today. The word doctrine means "sound" teaching. The Bible reveals that the doctrine for us today comes from Christ alone. With this being the case one then must consider the names used for so many "churches" today. In the "Baptist" churches, for instance, some believe that the "Baptist" church goes back to John the Baptist. Yet, in reality, the Baptist church is not seen in the Bible. The first denomination did not appear until the first large departure from the church which was established in Acts 2. Thus, the first denomination was seen approximately 600 years later. In reality John the Baptist got his name from his occupation. He was a baptizer. His purpose was to teach and preach repentance and baptism for the remission of sins" (Mark 1:2-4). The name "Methodist" came from those who wanted a method of worship that was "more spiritual" in nature. Our "Lutheran" friends follow the beliefs of a man named Martin Luther, who, like many others wanted nothing named after him and openly disapproved of mechanical instruments of music like many others who began their own congregations. However, even the founders "system of beliefs" are not seen much today.

Today, we have a huge issue facing true Christianity. Will we truly and completely follow Christ? There is only one Savior, only one Messiah, only one Son of God and only one True Teacher, Jesus Christ. Paul says the same thing in Galatians 3:16, "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ." Thus, Christ is our only teacher and our only true example to follow. If we are to join Christ in eternal life, we must follow Christ and the only true Gospel.

If the teaching did not begin in the Bible, then it has no reason to be taught as if it were part of the Gospel. Join us as we worship God according to His Word and teach from His Word. Join us at the church of our Savior, the church of Christ.